



Standards Oversight Council (SOC)

Developing effective technical standards that protect Wisconsin's natural resources

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NRCS 380 Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation Standard Update Team MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 ▲ 1:00pm – 3:30pm ▲

Online meeting

1:00 Welcome & Introduction (Kate, Allan)

Goal: Welcome and review today's meeting objective.

Attendance: Kate Brunner, Allan Braun, Eric Hurley, Mike Stanek, Mic Armstrong, Drew Zelle, Matt Wilson, Shannon Rohde, Tony Johnson, Peter Wisniewski, Jeremiah Auer, Roy Diver

Absences: Michael Demchik

Guests: None

Objective today is to refine and complete the Guidance Document.

Notes Review (Kate)

Goal: Review and approve 10/26/22 draft meeting notes.

Draft notes from October meeting were emailed to the team for review. Team discussion:

- Open action item to schedule the January meeting.
 - Poll summary is shared on-screen and those unable to respond previously confirm that afternoon of January 9, 2023 is available.
 - Kate will send out a calendar invitation today to hold this date/time on our calendars. Allan and Kate will decide in the next few days if we actually need a January meeting, then let the team know.
- No other questions or comments to the notes were raised by the team, so Kate will post online as final.

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Broad Review Comments (Kate)

Goal: Preview of the Broad Review comments (review period ends today!)

The public review period ends today. Kate notes that so far, **no** comments have been received. **Kate** will keep the team informed via email later this week whether or not comments are submitted.

Guidance Document Review (Allan)

Goal: Review key components of Guidance Document, with focus on areas identified by the team. Finalize Guidance Document.

Before this meeting Kate sent around the draft Guidance Document (GD) which was a compilation of work prepared by Allan, Mike, Matt, Peter and Shannon. Thank you for completing this extra work outside of the meetings!

The Team reviewed the draft GD prior to this meeting. The GD is shared on screen and team discusses and edits, including the following:

- The road intersection/vision triangle section is a bit complex. Some clarifying language added and the statement consult with the local road authority is mentioned earlier in this section.
- We don't have any information on windbreak renovation and this should be included since it's now part of the updated technical standard. The current renovation standard does not have a guidance document. Allan will look into other resources and existing literature.
- The figures in the existing GD and IR don't match up with the language in the updated draft standard. Figures can be helpful to depict things that may not be clear in a narrative. One of the Initial Reviewers also asked for figures. **Allan** will review options, including Richard Straight presentation to this team, to see if there is a figure(s) that would be a good complement. Kate can help with figure edits if needed.
- If landowner was working with NRCS, there would be a planner involved so this consultation does not need to be mentioned in the GD. If a landowner is installing windbreaks through another program or on their own (which is unlikely), they wouldn't necessarily need to follow the standard.
- Prevailing wind direction – wind roses aren't always used but team members aren't familiar with another comparable resource. Detail regarding raw wind data (and spreadsheet excerpt in previous draft) is removed. In addition, irrigation, field layout, buildings, etc. may not allow the windbreak to be perpendicular to prevailing wind direction.

- Digger's Hotline references added to both planning and planting steps to avoid utility conflicts.
- There are some language changes to make this better match the federal "plain language" initiative. Kate will review in this regard and Allan will also be wordsmithing before publication.
- Herbicide section – these products aren't recommended but listed for informational purposes. Not all possible herbicides are listed here; Allan will add statement about other possible herbicides (like newly emerging compounds). Allan will check with National Forester for input on this herbicide section. The DNR document included in the references is a little out of date but is being updated soon.
- Site Preparation – Tilling isn't ALWAYS necessary so that language is adjusted. In some cases, herbicides are used and trees can be planted without tillage (and tillage might do harm such as carbon loss and more weeds). Allan will wordsmith and organize this section for better flow to understand all the variables (e.g., hand planting vs machine planting).
- References section – DNR Forestry publication will be added. Kate will confirm format and hyperlinks before publication.

Break as needed

Plan of Action (Kate, Allan)

Goal: Review next steps and action items.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2023. The only remaining topic for this team is to review the Broad Review comments and complete responses; however, we don't yet have any comments. Kate will be in touch later this week if meeting is cancelled. Today may be the final team meeting!

Action items:

- Broad Review follow-up – **Kate** will keep the team informed via email later this week whether or not comments are submitted.
 - If any comments come in, **Kate** will compile comments into one document, then **Allan** will then draft responses and possible text changes for **Team** review.
 - If no comments come in, the teamwork portion of the project is complete and **Allan** will complete NRCS steps to publication of both standard and guidance document in the FOTG.
- Prior to publication, **Allan** and **Kate** will make final wordsmithing edits to the Guidance Document, including adjustments for placeholder notes left from meeting discussions. **Kate** will assist with figure edits.

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- **Kate:** finalize 10/26/22 notes and post online.
- **Kate:** prepare today's draft meeting notes for Team review.
- **Kate:** Send out exit survey to Team.
- **Kate & Allan:** prepare 1/9 agenda, if meeting is needed. If this meeting is cancelled, we will consider just meeting for lunch to celebrate the end of the project.

3:30 **End** (meeting ends at 2:50)